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Dated: March 29, 2004

Signature: Michael J. Doherty

(Michael J. Doherty)

3731
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Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-381
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Horan et al.

Application No.: 10/091,068

Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: March 5, 2002

Examiner: J. R. Baxter

For: BIASED ANGULATION BONE FIXATION
ASSEMBLY

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed February 20, 2004, setting forth a Restriction Requirement in the above-identified application. Applicants hereby elect Group I, Claims 1-43, drawn to a bone fixation assembly and Species A, the embodiments shown in FIGS. 3-16, with claims 1-10, 12-18 and 20-43 readable thereon.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application corresponding to the non-elected claims.

In the event any fee is due in connection with the present response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicants' Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: March 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By Michael J. Doherty

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